

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 /059 W

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O 051832Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8453

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 4094

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN CB CO

SUBJ: RECOMMENDATION TO UNBLOCK CAMBODIAN EMBASSY ACCOUNT

REF: A) STATE 102400; B) BOGOTA 3883; C) BOGOTA 3510

1. AMBASSADOR VUTTHI AND HIS STAFF HERE CLEARLY DO NOT WISH TO WORK WITH NEW REGIME IN CAMBODIA. THEY HAVE MADE THIS EVIDENT IN VUTTHI'S INITIAL VISIT TO EMBASSY AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. THEY HAVE APPLIED TO APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FOR ASSISTANCE IN RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE.

2. ACCORDING TO CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR VUTTHI, THE BALANCE OF HIS EMBASSY'S ACCOUNT IS BETWEEN \$43,000 AND \$50,000. HE IS NOT ABLE TO GIVE MORE PRECISE RECKONING OF BALANCE AS HE IS NOT SURE WHICH OF THE CHECKS HE HAS ISSUED HAVE BEEN CASHED OR CLEARED. EMBASSY'S ACCOUNT IS AT IRVING TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK, ACCOUNT NO. 17-139-826.

3. IN CONSULTATIONS ON DRAWDOWN LIMITS, AMBASSADOR VUTTHI HAS REQUESTED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF ENTIRE AMOUNT REMAINING IN ACCOUNT BE LICENSED. HE HAS POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY SALARIES HAVE BEEN IN ARREARS SINCE JANUARY. PAYMENT FOR JANUARY SALARIES WAS NOT DEPOSITED IN EMBASSY

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ACCOUNT UNTIL APR 4. UNTIL BLOCKING OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

(SEPTTEL), PERSONNEL HAD BEEN LIVING ON SAVINGS. THEY ARE NOW LIVING ON PROCEEDS OF SALES OF PERSONAL EFFECTS. UNPAID BILLS FOR OTHER EMBASSY EXPENSES HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING.

4. THE ACCOUNT BALANCE DESCRIBED BY VUTTHI IS NOT UNREASONABLE AND IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF STAFF AND DEPENDENTS (TOTAL IS 25), VUTTHI'S REQUEST SEEMS JUSTIFIED. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT ENTIRE ACCOUNT BE UNBLOCKED. SINCE THE ACCOUNT IS LOCATED IN NEW YORK THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTING IRVING TRUST TO APPLY TO TREASURY FOR LICENSE AUTHORIZING DEBIT.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLIEST ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND NOTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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